

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session
Approved Minutes
11 January 2014

Mission Statement

Scattergood Friends School challenges students with a college-preparatory curriculum, farm experience, a shared work program, and community living in the spirit of Quaker faith.

Present: Lucy Hansen, Claire Cumbie-Drake, Russ Leckband, Allan Winder, Phil Henderson, Dan Schlitt, Bob Winchell, Bob Winkleback, Katherine Young, George Bergus, Rebecca Bergus, Ruth Dawson, Harmony Dunn, Debbie Galusha (clerk), Ruthie Hampton

Absent: Karen Greenler, Doyle Wilson

Staff Present: Christine Ashley, Alicia Streeter, Amanda Paul, Rüdiger Rückmann, Thomas Weber, Mark Shanahan, Louis Herbst

Friends settled into silent worship in a timely manner. Christine then read the following quotation from Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet:

Then said a teacher, Speak to us of Teaching.

And he said:

No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge.

The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among the followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of this faith and his lovingness.

If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.

The astronomer may speak to you of his understanding of space, but he cannot give you his understanding.

The musician may sing to you of the rhythm which is in all peace, but he cannot give you the ear which arrests the rhythm, nor the voice that echoes it.

And he who is versed in the science of numbers can tell of the regions of weight and measure, but he cannot conduct you thither.

For the vision of one man lends not its wings to another man.

And even as each one of you stands along in God's knowledge, so must each one of you be along in his knowledge of God and in his understanding of the earth.

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on November 9, 2013.

We heard good reports from staff and appreciate their numerous creative and cooperative efforts to improve and address conditions at the school. Academic has been working on classrooms and ways to help struggling students. Admissions continues to research the market and get the word out, and is excited to have two strong prospects for the current semester. Development has begun formulating the Steering Committee for the Capital Campaign for which Phil Henderson will be one of the co-chairs. Facilities is postponing a few projects because of budget cuts. Farm projects continue, and Mark Quee hopes to sign up the Farm to participate in a Pesticide Drift Catcher program and created a CSA for staff during the summer months. An uplifting fact is that our kitchen is spending on the average \$1 per day per student because of the abundance of food provided by the farm! Spiritual and Community Life is organizing a Youth Retreat for Spring Break with the topic of “Living in an Interfaith Community”.

HR subcommittee will address the Grievance Policy at the March School Committee meeting.

Consultation and Finance gave their report.

To Note: Because of low enrollment and the concern that the Annual Fund may not be reached we are asking that School Committee members approach their churches/Meetings about helping to bridge the \$22,000 shortfall.

Minute: We approve the financial report from January 10, 2014 that represents a budget revision.

The Head of School gave an overview of the school’s progress and her hopes to create to collect stories from alumni to help us with outreach. There are many students applying, but she elaborated on the need to be conservative with our projections for next year’s enrollment and the adjustment of budgets that may result. We expressed gratitude that this is being addressed this early in the year.

The Master Planning committee has started work on the daunting task of creating a master plan for the campus. The first step is to look at functional areas of the school, then determine the needs and priorities. Housing for both staff and students is at the top of the list.

We agreed not to adjust the Long Range Plan at this meeting since the Master Planning committee is working on things related to it.

After brunch, Louis led the School Committee on a tour of academic spaces in the Main, the Instruction building and the Science building, showing us the creative work he and students have been doing to increase eye appeal without spending much money. An idea was proposed that we ask Monthly Meetings to ‘adopt’ or sponsor a classroom and help pay for a few modest upgrades that could make an enormous difference.

To Note: It was also posed to the School Committee that we consider additional personal donations within the next few weeks to be earmarked specifically for these classroom improvements. A little money will go a long way towards making an impression with prospective students.

The clerk brought our open meeting to an early close, and we proceeded into closed meeting.

Ruth Hampton, recording clerk

Next Meetings: Mar 15 (Des Moines), May 3, July 22 (the Tuesday of Yearly Meeting)